

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/614,340

Applicant : ABRAMS, Louis Brown

Filed: : July 3, 2003

TC/A.U. : 1733

Examiner: : JUSKA, C.

Docket No. : 4811-16

Confirmation No : 7865

Title: : "PROCESS FOR PRINTING AND MOLDING A FLOCKED ARTICLE"

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Dear Sir:

Applicant submits this Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance to address further the Notice of Allowability ("Notice") having a mailing date of August 15, 2007.

In the Notice, the Examiner's stated reasons for allowance were that (a) Abrams (U.S. 6,977,023) is not prior art; (b) the Declaration filed May 25, 2007, by Dr. GT Keep and Mr. WA Haile ("Declaration") has been found to be persuasive of the novelty and nonobviousness of the presently claimed invention, and (c) an update search of the prior art produced no new art of record. Based on the Notice, the patentability of all other independent and dependent claims is assumed to be based upon the elements as set forth in such claims and that such claims meet all criteria for patentability under §101, §102, §103 and §112.

As is clear from MPEP 1302.14,

“The statement [of reasons for allowance] is not intended to necessarily state all the reasons for allowance or all the details why claims are allowed and should not be written to specifically or impliedly state that all the reasons for allowance are set forth.”

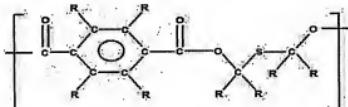
While the above-stated may be a stated reason for allowing some independent claims,

Applicant submits that some independent claims have a different reason for allowance and that some independent claims have other reasons for allowance.

Specifically, the prior art fails to teach the following features of Claims 4, 11,19, and 45:

4. A method for forming an article, comprising:

providing a flock fiber-containing surface, wherein the fibers of the fiber-containing surface comprise at least about 25 wt.% of a terephthalate polymer or copolymer having a repeating unit having the formula:

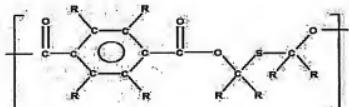


where “R” represents hydrogen or independently a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl group and “S” is an aromatic or nonaromatic cyclic residue which can include one or more heteroatoms; and

sublimation printing the fiber-containing surface to form a printed article, wherein the fibers are at least one of drawn and heat set at a temperature at or above the maximum fiber temperature during sublimation printing.

11. A method for providing a molded article comprising:

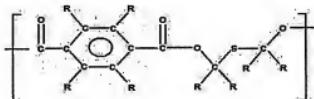
providing a flock fiber-containing surface, the fiber-containing surface comprising at least about 25 wt.% of a terephthalate polymer or copolymer having a repeating unit of the formula:



where "R" represents hydrogen or independently a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl group and "S" is an aromatic or nonaromatic cyclic residue which can include one or more heteroatoms;

sublimation printing the fiber-containing surface to form a printed article; forming the printed article into a three dimensional shape; positioning the formed printed article in a mold; and introducing a resin into the mold to form a molded article, wherein fibers in the fiber-containing surface are at least one of drawn and heat set at a temperature at or above the maximum fiber temperature during sublimation printing.

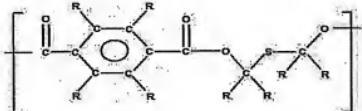
19. A method for forming a molded article, comprising:
providing a sublimation printed flock fiber-containing surface, the fiber-containing surface comprising a terephthalate polymer having a repeating unit of the formula:



where "R" represents hydrogen or independently a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl group and "S" is an aromatic or nonaromatic cyclic residue which can include one or more heteroatoms;

forming the fiber-containing surface into a three dimensional shape; positioning the formed fiber-containing surface in a mold; and introducing a resin into the mold to form a molded article.

45. A method for providing a printed article comprising:
providing a fiber-containing surface having a plurality of flock fibers, the fibers comprising at least about 25 wt.% of a terephthalate polymer or copolymer having a repeating unit of the formula:



where "R" represents hydrogen or independently a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or aryl group and "S" is an aromatic or nonaromatic cyclic residue which can include one or more heteroatoms; and

sublimation printing the fiber-containing surface to form a printed article, wherein during sublimation printing the fiber-containing surface is heated to a sublimation printing temperature and wherein the polymer has a melting point greater than the maximum sublimation printing temperature, and wherein at least one of the drawing temperature and the heat set temperature of the polymer is at or above the maximum sublimation printing temperature.

Applicant further wishes to clarify that the Declaration was not needed to establish the allowability of the claims. Specifically, the Examiner admitted that she could find no prior art upon which to base a substantive rejection of the claims. Accordingly, Applicant concludes, from the Examiner's statements, that the Declaration is not material to patentability.

Although the Applicant believes that no fees are due for filing this Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance, please charge any fees deemed necessary to Deposit Account No. 19-1970.

Respectfully submitted,

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